

his mother. Joseph listened for a time, and the cause of his mother's years of worry dawned on him. Joseph descended on the shark's son with the intention to make a different variety of mark than that his mother had been making in renewing the note. But the shark's son fled.

Then the whole story came out. Mrs. W. E. Boyes, superintendent of the Legal Aid society, and Guy M. Blake, the society's attorney, acted. They threatened the shark with prosecution if the note was not canceled. The son canceled the note. That ended the case. But no prosecution that could have been brought would have compensated Mrs. Murphy for the years of agony, worry and trial she endured, or the deceit she was forced to practice on her husband and son. And all for a suit of clothes that cost \$25—originally—but in the end amounted to more than \$500.

These vultures should be stopped, as ruthlessly as one would trample on a snake. But it is hard to do when the people do not hear of the cases, and do not know the names of the piratical companies of which they should beware. And the papers don't often print news of such cases.

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A Generous Offer.

"Tommy, if you'll saw some wood, I'll tell you what I'll do."

"What's that, dad?"

"I'll let you have the sawdust to play circus with."—Washington Herald.

MILLIONS STARVING TO DEATH IN RUSSIA

St. Petersburg, Dec. 8.—Russia is in the grip of a famine that threatens to claim more lives than that of 1891, when 800,000 men, women and children died.

In Ufa, hundreds of children have lived for months on acorns. But there are hardly any acorns left now.

In Samara, the people are eating dogs and shrubs. The people there are dying in their homes, and in the fields and by the roadsides.

The government has prohibited the organization of private relief societies. It fears political propaganda.

In some districts the police—the czar's power in Russia—have forbidden the papers to raise funds, or even to mention the famine.

The Free Economic society estimates the crop shortage at 50,000,000 tons.

The bureaucracy, as usual, is attempting to minimize the situation. The premier says the government has taken all proper measures for relief—but he fails to tell of the dead, the dying, the starving.

Heated debates on the situation have taken place in the Duma. The opposition—the insurgents—are demanding the dismissal of the governors of affected provinces.

But the Duma is powerless, and Russia may pay the toll.